

REMARKS

Claims 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0123000 to Sugiura et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,781,759 to Wakita et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

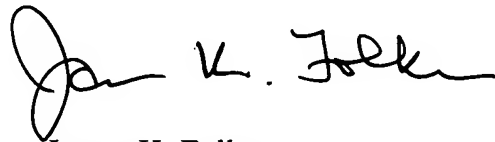
Applicants respectfully submit that the Sugiura et al. reference does not qualify as prior art with regard to the above-named application, and therefore Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of Claims 11-16. More specifically, with the change of inventorship filed November 4, 2005, the present application and the Sugiura et al. publication have the same inventive entity (Norio Sugiura, Katsufumi Ohmuro, and Kunihiro Tashiro). Accordingly, the Sugiura et al. reference does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or §102(e) because it was not “by others,” or “by another” as required by these sections. Further, the Sugiura et al. reference does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) because the July 3, 2003 publication date of the Sugiura et al. reference is not more than one year before the November 17, 2003 U.S. filing date of the present application. Further, none of the other sections of §102 apply. Thus, since the Sugiura et al. reference does not qualify as prior art with regard to the present application, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of Claims 11-16.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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